



USAID | BANGLADESH
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PRESS RELEASE

USAID HOLDS NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO DISSEMINATE FOOD SECURITY SURVEY DATA AND RESULTS

DHAKA JANUARY 16, 2013 -- In 2011-12, USAID's Policy Research and Strategy Support Program (PRSSP) conducted a nationwide household survey on food security and agriculture across Bangladesh. The data from this survey has now been released and will be used to assess the impact of food security programs in Bangladesh, including the United States government's Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative. As part of efforts to disseminate the information obtained from this survey, USAID, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) – the implementing partner for PRSSP, and the Bangladesh Government held a one-day workshop on January 16, 2013. Minister of Agriculture, Ms. Matia Chowdhury participated as Chief Guest. Minister of Women and Children's Affairs, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Minister of Food, Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, and US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Dan Mozena, were also present as special guests.

The household survey conducted by IFPRI provides a wide range of demographic, occupational, expenditure and nutrition data as well as detailed information on agricultural production practices, production levels and costs, and off-farm enterprises. In addition, the survey provides data on women's empowerment in the agriculture sector. For example, the data show that most critical factor to women's empowerment in this sector is the control over income, rather than the overall size of their household's income.

Another important finding from the survey is that smallholder farmers represent about 61% of the farmers in the south and southwest part of the country (the focus area for the FTF Initiative). The data show that in this geographic area, small farmers (less than 1 acre) irrigate more of their land on a percentage basis, use more fertilizer per hectare, and have higher yields than the larger size farmers. However, small farmers have much lower access to credit and they access extension services at a much lower rate than large farmers.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, has provided over \$6 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In 2012 alone, USAID provided more than \$200 million to improve the lives of people in Bangladesh. USAID supports programs in Bangladesh that: promote democratic

institutions and practices, expand food security and economic opportunity, improve health and education services, and increase resiliency to climate change through adaptation and low carbon development.

=====

For complete information on U.S. Embassy Dhaka, including copies of all speeches and press releases in English and Bangla, please visit our web site at <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>. And stay connected on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4 FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>